

Serial No.: 09/721,523
Art Unit: 2131
Page 2

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as indicated hereafter (where underlining “_” denotes additions and strikethrough “-” denotes deletions).

Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) In a system with a plurality of packetized data streams, a method of designating a source of at least one packetized data stream within a multiplexed signal including at least a portion of the at least one packetized data stream, the method comprising the steps of:

assigning to the source device of the at least one packetized data stream, a first unique designator;

assigning to the source program of the at least one packetized data stream, a program identification number;

multiplexing at least the portion of the at least one packetized data stream with at least a portion of a second packetized data stream to create the multiplexed signal; and

transmitting the first unique designator in conjunction with the multiplexed signal, wherein the first unique designator indicates the source device of the at least one packetized data stream.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the packetized data stream is in a format compliant with at least one of Moving Picture Experts Group type 2 (MPEG-2) standard, Moving Picture Experts Group type 4 (MPEG-4) standard, Asynchronous Transfer Modulation (ATM) standard, and Internet Protocol (IP) standard.

Serial No.: 09/721,523
Art Unit: 2131
Page 3

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of transmitting the first unique designator comprises the steps of:

creating a first unique designator signal that includes the first unique designator;
and

transmitting the first unique designator signal in conjunction with the multiplexed signal, wherein the first unique designator signal provides the first unique designator at the start of the at least one packet of the at least one packetized data stream.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of transmitting the first unique designator comprises the steps of:

creating a first unique designator signal that includes the first unique designator;
and

transmitting the first unique designator signal in conjunction with the multiplexed signal, wherein the first unique designator signal provides the first unique designator at the start of the at least one byte of the at least one packetized data stream.

5. - 8. (Canceled).

Serial No.: 09/721,523
Art Unit: 2131
Page 4

9. (Currently Amended) In a host terminal, a method of multiplexing together packets from at least two packetized data streams to enable decryption of the packets by an external conditional access module, the method comprising the steps of:

assigning to each of the sourees source devices originating the at least two packetized data streams, associated unique designators;

assigning to each source program originating the at least two packetized data streams, associated program identification numbers;

multiplexing the packets forming portions of the at least two packetized data streams into a signal;

creating an association for each packet in the signal with the unique designator of the originating packetized data stream from which each packet originated;

transmitting the signal and the associations of the packets to the external conditional access module; and

decrypting, in the external conditional access module, the packets in the signal based on the associated unique designators.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the at least two packetized data streams are in a format compliant with at least one of Moving Picture Experts Group type 2 (MPEG-2) standard, Moving Picture Experts Group type 4 (MPEG-4) standard, Asynchronous Transfer Modulation (ATM) standard, and Internet Protocol (IP) standard.

Serial No.: 09/721,523

Art Unit: 2131

Page 5

11. (Currently Amended) In a system with a plurality of Moving Picture Experts Group type 2 (MPEG-2) standard transport streams and a host terminal, a method of designating to an external conditional access module a source of at least one packet of a first MPEG-2 transport stream with a multiplexed signal including the at least one packet of the first MPEG-2 transport stream, the method comprising the steps of:

assigning to the source device of the first MPEG-2 transport stream, a unique designator;

assigning to the source program of the first MPEG-2 transport stream, a program identification number;

creating a transport stream source indicator signal that includes the unique designator associated with the at least one packet of the first MPEG-2 transport stream;

multiplexing the at least one packet of the first MPEG-2 transport stream with packets from at least a portion of a second MPEG-2 transport stream to create the multiplexed signal; and

transmitting to the external conditional access module the transport stream source indicator signal in conjunction with the multiplexed signal, wherein transmission of the transport stream source indicator signal, by the unique designator, indicates the source device of the at least one packet as the source device of the first MPEG-2 transport stream.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, further including the step of decrypting, in the external conditional access module, the at least one packet based on the source of the first MPEG-2 transport stream.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, further including the step of transmitting the decrypted at least one packet from the external conditional access module to the host terminal.

Serial No.: 09/721,523
Art Unit: 2131
Page 6

14. (Currently Amended) An external conditional access module comprising:
a host terminal interface configured to receive from a host terminal, an incoming
multiplexed signal comprising at least one packetized data stream that
includes
a unique source address that indicates a source device of a data
packet inside the at least one packetized data stream; and
a program identification number that indicates a source program of
a data packet inside the at least one packetized data stream;
a de-multiplexer configured for de-multiplexing the incoming multiplexed signal
into data packets associated with the at least one packetized data stream
based on the unique source address associated with each data packet;
a controller configured for determining if decryption is allowed for the data
packets associated with the least one packetized data stream and for
controlling decryption parameters; and
a decryptor configured for decrypting, if decryption is allowed, the data packets
associated with the at least one packetized data stream using decryption
parameters for the at least one packetized data stream.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 14, wherein the data packets and the
packetized data stream are in a format compliant with at least one of Moving Picture Experts
type 2 (MPEG-2) standard, Moving Picture Experts Group type 4 (MPEG-4) standard,
Asynchronous Transfer Modulation (ATM) standard, and Internet Protocol (IP) standard.

16. (Original) The method of claim 14, further comprising an encryptor for encrypting
the data packets associated with the at least one packetized data stream.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the encryption provides copy
protection for the data packets associated with the at least one packetized data stream.

Serial No.: 09/721,523

Art Unit: 2131

Page 7

18. (Currently Amended) A host terminal that provides a multiplexed signal to an external conditional access module, wherein the multiplexed signal includes data packets from at least two packetized data streams, the host terminal comprising:

at least two tuners, each tuner for receiving one of the at least two packetized data streams; and

a multiplexer for combining data packets from the at least two packetized data streams into the multiplexed signal, for assigning a unique source device address that indicates which tuner received the packetized data stream associated with the data packets, for assigning to the source program of at least one packetized data stream, a program identification number; for transmitting the multiplexed signal to the external conditional access module, and for communicating the unique source address associated with each data packet to the external conditional access module.

19. (Previously Presented) The host terminal of claim 18, wherein the data packets and the packetized data stream are in a format compliant with at least one of Moving Picture Experts Group type 2 (MPEG-2) standard, Moving Picture Experts Group type 4 (MPEG-4) standard, Asynchronous Transfer Modulation (ATM) standard, and Internet Protocol (IP) standard.

20. (Original) The host terminal of claim 18, further comprising a demultiplexer for receiving an output signal from the external conditional access module, for de-multiplexing the output signal, and for providing the at least two packetized data streams as separate packetized data streams.

21. (Canceled).

Serial No.: 09/721,523
Art Unit: 2131
Page 8

22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 3, wherein the at least one packetized data stream comprises a first encrypted signal, and wherein the source device of the at least one packetized data stream comprises a first tuner.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, further comprising decrypting the first encrypted signal subject to a first authorization.

24. – 27. (Canceled).

28. (Currently Amended) A point-of-deployment (POD) module comprising:
a host terminal interface configured to receive from a host terminal, a multiplexed signal comprising a first encrypted signal together with a first transport stream source indicator signal (TSSIS) and a program identification number;
a demultiplexer configured to use the first TSSIS to identify the first encrypted signal in the multiplexed signal;
a controller configured to generate a first decryption instruction upon receiving authorization through a first authorization grant signal; and
a first decryptor configured to receive from the demultiplexer, the first encrypted signal, and decrypt the first encrypted signal conditional to receiving the first decryption instruction;
wherein the first TSSIS indicates the source device for the first transport stream.

Serial No.: 09/721,523
Art Unit: 2131
Page 9

29. (Previously Presented) The POD module of claim 28, further comprising:
the host terminal interface configured to receive from the host terminal, the multiplexed signal comprising a second encrypted signal together with a second transport stream source indicator signal (TSSIS);
the demultiplexer configured to use the second TSSIS to identify the second encrypted signal in the multiplexed signal;
the controller configured to generate a second decryption instruction upon receiving authorization through a second authorization grant signal; and a second decryptor configured to receive from the demultiplexer, the second encrypted signal, and decrypt the second encrypted signal conditional to receiving the second decryption instruction.
30. (Currently Amended) The method of claim †22, further comprising:
assigning to a second tuner that is a source of the second packetized data stream, a second unique designator; and
transmitting the second unique designator in conjunction with the multiplexed signal, whereby the second unique designator provides an identification of the second tuner as the source of the second packetized data stream.